

Human Services Funding Committee / Community Development Committee (CDC)
Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Attending: *Members:* Mary Jane Laus, Paulette Brooks, Isaac BenEzra, and Jana McClure. *Town Staff:* Roy Rosenblatt

Social Service Town Funding: The Community Development Committee met at the first floor meeting room of Town Hall beginning at 6:15 p.m. The committee discussed the agency proposals submitted for Amherst town funding. Proposals submitted were: Amherst Survival Center – requesting \$16,725.; Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Hampshire County – requesting \$14,000.; Men’s Resource Center for Change – requesting \$5000.; Casa Latina – requesting \$5000.; Not Bread Alone – requesting \$6000.; Center For New Americans - requesting \$4200.; and Family Outreach of Amherst – requesting \$13,000.

After discussing each proposal, the committee made the motion: *“In keeping with the recommendation of the Select Board, the Community Development Committee recommends restoration of \$66,000. for Human Services to be presented in the final budget before Town Meeting in Spring, 2008 in the 2009 town budget.”* The vote was unanimous. **See Attached [Roy needs to check the numbers]**

Community Development Block Grant funding: The committee discussed homelessness in the context of new development and affordable housing. Mr. Rosenblatt informed the committee that the Homelessness Committee would be meeting on April 4, 2008, Friday at 11 a.m. He will post a meeting of the CDC at the same time and recommended that members attend. The committee also discussed the importance of working with other committees, because each group is discussing the same problems of homelessness, affordable housing, new construction or rehabilitation of existing facilities. The Comprehensive Planning Committee’s report online, as well as the Housing Partnership’s work in this area was discussed. Renovation funding for Rolling Green in lieu of deed restriction for affordable housing was also discussed.

A meeting was planned for Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at a place and time to be determined. This meeting is planned to invite Joanne Campbell, Charlene Balonka, and Janet Kzork to learn about their work on the Amherst study for non-profit housing development. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.